Computer System without Devanagari Script

†2985. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) what are those computer systems which are not adequately capable to work in Devanagari script;

(b) whether any survey has been planned to assess the above shortcomings; and

(c) what measures have been taken or being contemplate to remove these shortcomings ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) All personal computers available in the market have Devanagari support for general purpose applications. The computer systems other than personal computers do have adequate processing capacity, though requisite interface software for Devanagari support on these systems needs to be developed. The technology development of the interface software will be supported depending upon the demand, providing Devanagari support on these systems for general purpose applications.

Hacking of Government Websites

2986. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some terrorists have succeeded in hacking official government web pages;

(b) if so, the steps taken to avoid it;

(c) whether Government have been warned by an outside agency of a possible 'cyber war'; and

(d) whether India is fully equipped to counter such a step by energy forces ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNONOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Some web pages including Government web pages have been hacked. The identity of the hackers often can not be ascertained as the hackers generally operate under some fictious names or from other dormant sites.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Internet is a conglomeration of networks having presence in over two hundred countries. It is difficult for any single Government agency to exercise control over it. The solution lies mainly with content/service providers in deploying firewall or security audit system. Penalities and punishment have been provided in the IT Bill which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16-12-1999. This legislation when enacted would act as a deterrent to the activities of the hackers.

(c) No such information is available.

(d) IT and internet security are evolving areas world-wide and India is gearing itself to counter such threats.

Cyber Crime

2987. Dr. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scope of cyber crime in India is huge; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to wipe out the tremendous threat to the financial and the defence sectors in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) Cyber crime in India is likely to be in line with such crimes elsewhere in the world. With the increasing use of Internet, technical preventive measures and practices, are continously being developed to counter such crimes. The IT Bill introduced in the Parliament, inter-alia, provides for penalty and compensation to prevent computer misuses and computer crime. A comprehensive set of security instructions have been issued to minimise the threat in the defence sector.

Amendment of Child Labour Act

2988. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to amend the Child Labour (Regulation and Prohibition) Act in near future; and